



## Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 3

**Meeting Date:** April 21, 2014  
**Meeting Location:** Juvenile Justice Center  
1000 South Michigan  
South Bend, IN

**Council Members Present:** James Pippin, Regional Manager DCS; Michael Carroll, Director Marshall County DCS; Linda Cioch, Director St. Joseph County; Erin Shidler, Director Kosciusko DCS; Tony Sommer, Director Elkhart County DCS; Teresa Zornig, Division Manager St. Joseph County DCS; William Horton, St. Joseph County DCS; Pam Whisman, Marshall County DCS.

**Council Members Absent:** Judge Duane Huffer, Kosciusko County Superior Court; Judge Curtis Palmer; Joe Wine, Foster Parent; Magistrate Deborah Domine; Don Phillips, Bashor; James Pheilbush; Scott Filley; Amanda Herendeen, Kosciusko County DCS.

**Others In Attendance:** Rachel Tobin-Smith, SCAN/Community Partners; Jeff Bedree, Regional Services Coordinator; Dion Smith Sr., Regional Services Coordinator; Mike Marchi, Memorial Epworth; Libby Martin, LSSIN; Debbie Branfield, Crossroad; Amy Rosen, Oaklawn; Marzy Bauer, YWCA North Central; Candy Yoder, CAPS; Shelly Overgaard, YSB; Emily Robinson, Oaklawn; Lisa Zakowski, CAPS; P. Hamilton, SCAN; Tai Crayton, Whites RFS; L. Parker, Lifeline; Adrienne Dickerson, Lifeline; Tess Ottenweller, Bowen Center.

### Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by James Pippin.

1. Welcome/Introductions of Members and Guests.
2. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of 2/24/2014 reviewed. Erin Shidler motioned approval of the minutes as written. Tony Sommer seconded. All in favor. 0 Opposed. Motion carried.
3. Community Partners Update. Rachel Tobin-Smith reported on March financials. Current spending; \$1,341,087 of \$1,818,771. We should be at 75% of the budget for spending, we are at 73.73%. We are doing just fine. They are tracking it weekly.

We have served 857 families to date. We have enrolled 618 families this year. We are engaging 57% of the families. DCS continues to be the number one referral source. Increased referrals from schools are expected. Outreach in Elkhart schools.

All information goes into a State data base. When a client receives 8 visits they are tracked for 12/18 months to see if abuse and neglect re-occur. The statewide goal is 95% of the families to not have abuse/neglect substantiated. The region is currently not less than 98.5% in either category. This is reflected in a new report given to the council.

Regarding local prevention dollars, 87.9% of the \$779,473 spent to date. This spending should be at 75% but there is no worry because providers are expected to spend it all by the end of the fiscal year and never spend more than allocated.

Jamie Pippin spoke about the “Gear Up” Program. This program is to address child fatalities in the region. For parents that have a new baby and risk in family. Three in-home visits and must attend classes before they can get equipment such as Pack-n-Plays. About \$200,000 pulled out of prevention dollars to fund program. This is a different way of using some of the local prevention dollars. Proposals will be taken from providers; SCAN will be doing RFPs for this. The program will be done in all four counties.

4. Service Update. Dion Smith & Jeff Bedree, Regional Service Coordinators, FCT referrals going up, this region is leading the way. Dion will be creating the referral, local offices will approve.

5. Regional Budget Update. Joni Tusing, Regional Financial Manager, not present. Budget handed out to members. We are well under and doing well.

6. County Updates.

Marshall County - Michael Carroll, Director, one vacancy with a worker transferring to collaborative care. Candlelight vigil went well at Centennial Park. The children’s choir sang.

Kosciusko County - Erin Shidler, Director, we are at full staff with one new FCM in training. Successful Candlelight Vigil.

St Joseph County – Linda Cioch, Director, have two FCM positions filled. One resigned today. One new hire had a death in the family and has chosen not to start a career here at this time. We will have a DCS recognition Day at the Silverhawks game this Friday. There will be information on foster parenting and other information distributed. Terri will still be in our office.

Elkhart County - Tony Sommer, Director, reported no resignations and some out on maternity leave. Had good turnout for the Pinwheels for Prevention with good speakers.

Regional – Jamie Pippin, Regional Manager, Noble County has a new Director.

Terri Zornig motioned adjournment. Michael Carroll seconded. Meeting adjourned 10:34a.m.